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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

ASTATKE *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/608,066

Filed: June 30, 2000

For: **Compositions and Methods for
Enhanced Sensitivity and
Specificity of Nucleic Acid
Synthesis**

Confirmation No. 1120

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Taylor, J.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4990001/RWE/BJD

Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended **three (3)** months from **December 16, 2002**, to **Monday, March 17, 2003**, by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$930.00 for a three (3) month extension for a large entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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Date: March 17, 2003

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